



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Roy Curtiss III and Steve A. Tinge

Serial No.: 08/473,789

Group Art Unit: 1802

Filed: June 7, 1995

Examiner: V. Ryan

For: Recombinant Bacterial Vaccine System With Environmentally Limited Viability

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed on April 15, 1997, please consider the following remarks. Filed with this response is a Petition For Extension Of Time, along with the required fee, to extend the period for response for two months, up to and including September 15, 1997.

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview on August 18, 1997, and hope that the information discussed aids in an understanding of the claimed cells and method. The present invention is a microbial cell having an Environmentally Limited Viability System (ELVS) such that the cell is viable in a permissive environment and non-viable in a non-permissive environment. The ELVS achieves this environmentally specified viability using two components, an essential gene and a lethal gene. As discussed at the interview, essential